

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a thermoplastic resin and fibers, wherein the fibers [[is]]are cellulosic or lignocellulosic fibers, and wherein at least 70% of the fibers have that has a length-to-diameter ratio of at least [[5]]10.
2. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, comprising at least about 5% by weight sheared fibers.
3. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are newsprint fibers.
4. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are jute fibers.
5. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are kenaf fibers.
6. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are magazine paper fibers.
7. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are bleached kraft board fibers.
8. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are poly-coated paper fibers.
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polycarbonate, polybutylene, thermoplastic polyesters, polyethers, thermoplastic polyurethane, PVC, and Nylon.

11. (Original) The composite of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polyethylene.

12. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polypropylene.

13. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight thermoplastic resin and about 30% to about 70% by weight fibers.

14. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising polyethylene and fibers, wherein the fibers [[is]] are cellulosic or lignocellulosic fibers, and wherein at least 70% of the fibers have that has a length-to-diameter ratio of at least [[5]]10.

15. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a thermoplastic resin and fibers, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 3,000 psi, and wherein the fibers [[is]] are cellulosic or lignocellulosic fibers, and wherein at least 70% of the fibers have that has a length-to-diameter ratio of at least [[5]]10.

16. (Original) The composite of claim 15, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 6,000 psi.

17. (Original) The composite of claim 15, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 10,000 psi.

18-44 (Cancelled).

45. (Original) The composite of claim 1, further comprising an inorganic additive.

46. (Original) The composite of claim 45, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

47. (Original) The composite of claim 46, wherein the inorganic additive comprises from about 0.5% to about 20% of the total weight of the composite.

48. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of a pallet.

49. (Original) The composite of claim 48, wherein said pallet is injection molded.

50. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of an article selected from the group consisting of panels, pipes, decking materials, boards, housings, sheets, poles, straps, fencing, members, doors, shutters, awnings, shades, signs, frames, window casings, backboards, wallboards, flooring, tiles, railroad ties, forms, trays, tool handles, stalls, bedding, dispensers, staves, films, wraps, totes, barrels, boxes, packing materials, baskets, straps, slips, racks, casings, binders, dividers, walls, indoor and outdoor carpets, rugs, wovens, and mats, frames, bookcases, sculptures, chairs, tables, desks, art, toys, games, wharves, piers, boats, masts, pollution control products, septic tanks, automotive panels, substrates, computer housings, above- and below-ground electrical casings, furniture, picnic tables, tents, playgrounds, benches, shelters, sporting goods, beds, bedpans, thread, filament, cloth, plaques, trays, hangers, servers, pools, insulation, caskets, bookcovers, clothes, canes, crutches, and other construction, agricultural, material handling, transportation, automotive, industrial, environmental, naval, electrical, electronic, recreational, medical, and textile.

51. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of a fiber, filament, or film.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a resin, fibers, and an inorganic additive, wherein the fibers [[is]]are cellulosic or lignocellulosic fibers, and wherein at least 70% of the fibers have that has a length-to-diameter ratio of at least [[5]]10.

55. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 54, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

56. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 54, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight resin, about 30% to about 70% fiber, and about 0.5% to about 30% by weight inorganic fiber.

57. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a resin and fibers, wherein the fibers [[is]]are cellulosic or lignocellulosic fibers, and wherein at least [[50%]]70% of the fibers have a length to diameter ratio of at least 50.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 57, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight resin and about 30% to about 70% by weight fibers.

61. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 57, further comprising an inorganic additive.

62. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 61, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

63. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 61, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic resin.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 1, wherein the length-to-diameter ratio is at least 25.

66. (Currently Amended) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fibers [[is]]are cotton fibers.